**Assembly** 

#### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Consumer Affairs**

#### **Assembly Bill 517**

Relating to: the regulation of social workers, advanced practice social workers, independent social workers, independent clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors.

By Representatives Urban, Notestein, Johnsrud, Hasenohrl, Ott, Wasserman, Duff, Gronemus, Meyer, Seratti, Plale, Hoven, Plouff, Goetsch, Springer, Albers, Kelso and Hanson; cosponsored by Senators Grobschmidt, Farrow, Risser, C. Potter, Huelsman, Wirch and Breske.

September 16, 1997 Referred to committee on Consumer Affairs.

#### October 23, 1997 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (7) Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, M. Lehman, Urban, Williams and Black.

Absent: (1) Representative Hasenohrl.

#### Appearances for

- Representative Frank Urban, author
- Ruth Ann Berkholtz, Madison, NASW Wis. Chapter
- Douglas V. Knight, Chairman, Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors
- Fred Devett, Middleton, Wis. Assn. for Marraige & Family Thearpy
- William Berkan, Madison, self
- Judith Schaffer, Milwaukee, WAMFT
- Anthony Waisbrot, MSW, BCD, Marshfield, Wis. Society for Clinical Social Work
- Sally Schmidt, Milwaukee
- Joanne Barndt, Milwaukee

#### Appearances against

- Seretary Marlene A. Cummings, Department of Regulation & Licensing
- Richard Salem, Dept. of Sociology, UW Whitewater
- Dr. Ann Frisch, Oshkosh, self
- Arlene Siss, Lancaster, Grant County Social Services

#### Appearances for Information Only

None.

#### Registrations for

- Susan A. Kell, Board Member, Professional Counselors Section of Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists & Professional Counselors
- Sandi Moore, Menasha, self
- Laurie Moyer, River Falls, self
- Wendy Abel Loss, Schofield
- Mary Ellen Loerke, Milwaukee, self
- Dismas Becker, Madison, Professional Counselors
- Janice Lieber, self
- Rose Lee, Baraboo, self
- Deb Lau-Schingen, Milwaukee, self
- Julie Kruk, DePere, self
- James Kroll, Mequon, self
- Mary Ann Krems, Stevens Point, self
- James Kimball, Wausau, self
- Curtis Hossman, Lodi, self
- Terry Major Holliday, Waupaca
- Dan Hobson, Madison, self
- Roger Gantzarow, Madison, self
- James P. Buckley, Waukesha, Wis. Assn. for Marriage & Family Therapy
- Kelli Frankenberg, Madison, self
- Peg Olson, Oshkosh, self
- Beverly Oastenhous, Heenah, self
- Barb Patch, Sun Prairie, self
- Marj Colavitti, Appleton, self
- Lisa Dobbenke, Medford, self
- John Bowen, Greendale, self
- Sandy Bosin, Wukesha, self
- Chet Gerlach, Wisconsin School Counselors Assn.
- Tanya Atkinson, Madison
- Cornelia Gordon-Hempe, Chair, Social Worker Section, Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists & Professional Counselors
- Muriel J. Harper, Vice Chair, Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Examining Board (and) Employee Assistance Professional Association

#### Registrations against

- Kathy Merkeland, Monona, Wisconsin Counties Association
- Scott Peterson, WI Health & Hospital Association

Daniel A. Young Committee Clerk

Assembly Sergeant at Arms Room 411 West State Capitol	Please return this slip to a mess	Speaking for <i>information only;</i> Neither for nor against:	Registering against:	Registering In lavor:	Speaking against:	Speaking <i>in favor</i> :	(Representing)	GOILA & STA COOPS SEM BUS	Street Address or House Number	2	REP. Fram (	Or Subject	BIII NO. 100 51)	Dato: Och. 23, 19	(Please print plainly)	
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Assembly Sergeant at Arms

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Local: No local  1. Increase Costs	government costs	ncrease Revenu	10	5. Ty	pes of local gov	ernment units	affected:
	. 1 _	Permissive	☐ Mandatory	Пт	owns	☐ Villages	☐ Cities
2. Decrease Costs		ecrease Reven	-	Пс	ounties	Others	
Permissive	Mandatory	Permissive	☐ Mandatory	□s	chool Districts	□ wtcs □	istricts
Fund Sources Affected  GPR FED	<b>∑</b> PRO □ PRS	□ seg-s	Affected Ch. 20 A 20.165 (1) (g) a				
Assumptions Used in Arriving	g at Fiscal Estimate						
This bill creates a practice current certification regular the services that can be publical Social Workers. If meetings at a cost of \$500.	ation which protects performed by Advan Defining these level	the titles of ced Practice s of practice	the professions. Social Workers will require at le	The b Inder ast fou	oill requires the pendent Soci ur additional (	hat the boar al Workers Social Work	d define by rule and Independent
If the bill were to be adopt would make it a crime to pengages in practice that is advanced practice social specifies that penalties of violation. Because of these be responding to numerous	oractice outside the s restricted to social worker may be subj \$5,000 for the first se serious criminal p	scope of one workers pra ect to the cri offense and penalties the	e's license. In ot acticing at the ind minal penalties in \$10,000 fine and definitions for ea	her wellepend n the delimpring n ach ar	ords, if an ad dent and inde chapter. Sec sonment for ea of practic	Ivanced pra ependent cli tion 457.30, up to 9 mor e become c	ctice social worker inical levels, the Wis. Stats., oths for a willful
This bill requires the depa professional counselors. \$450, and licenses, \$1,83	Costs associated w	ith this requi	all social workers rement include p	s, mar ostag	riage and far e, \$7,833, er	mily therapis	sts and 1018, Chipboard,
The department currently would determine that there development would be \$9,	e should be a separ	tute and rule ate statute a	es examination fo nd rules exam fo	or the or eacl	four levels of h level of soc	social work	c. If the board e costs for test
Long-Range Fiscal Implication	าร			-		***************************************	
Agency/Prepared by:		Authorized S	ignature			Date	9
Department of Regulatio Patricia C. McCormack (608) 267-2435	n and Licensing		- C M	(or	week		10/1/97

FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET			1:	997 Sess	ion
Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect	UPDATE	LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No. Amendment			
DOA-2047 (R10/94)	SUPPLEMENTAL	AB 517	7		
Subject: Regulation of Social Workers, Adva Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Famil	y Therapists, and F	Professional Counsel	ors		
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for One-time costs associated with the four additional se	State and/or Local Go	overnment (do not inclutotal \$3,380	ıde in annualized fis	cal effect)	
II. Annualized Costs:			nnualized Fiscal imp	act on Sta	te funds from:
A. State Costs by Category			ncreased Costs		reased Costs
State Operations - Salaries and Fringe	S	\$		\$ -	
(FTE Position Changes)		(	FTE)	( -	FTE)
State Operations - Other Costs		·		-	
Local Assistance		·	11,139	-	
Aids to Individuals or Organizations				-	
TOTAL State Costs by Ca	ategory	\$ 11	,139	\$ -	
B. State Costs by Source of Funds GPR		\$	ncreased Costs	Dec	reased Costs
FED				_	
PRO/PRS			11,139	_	
SEG/SEG-S	n (Tar Ser	Last Control of the C			
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when propose (e.g., tax increase, decrease in li	al will increase or decrease cense fee, etc.)	e state revenues In	creased Costs	Deci	eased Costs
GPR Taxes		\$		\$ -	
GPR Earned					
FED				-	
PRO/PRS			0	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	**************************************
SEG/SEG-S					
TOTAL State Revenues		\$	0	\$	
NE	ET ANNUALIZED	FISCAL IMPACT			
	!	STATE		LOCAL	
NET CHANGE IN COSTS			***		
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$ 0	***************************************			
Agency/Prepared by:	Authorized Signat			Date	
Department of Regulation and Licensing Patricia C. McCormack (608) 267-2435	Patrice "	C Me Course	ek	10	0/1/97

#### Lutheran Counseling & Family Services



DR. CHUCK MESECK, PSY.D., NCC

**Executive Director** 

3800 N. Mayfair Road Wauwatosa, WI 53222-2200 Toll Free: 800-291-4513 E-mail: lcfs2@globaldialog.com

(414) 536-8333 Fax: (414) 536-8348

Cell Phone: (414) 218-0591

Mr. Cliff Otte State Capitol POB 7863 Madison, WI 53707 **Lutheran Counseling** & Family Services

> Administrative Office 3800 N. Mayfair Road Wauwatosa, WI 53222-2200 414-536-8333

Dear Mr. Otte:

Recently I was part of a discussion that talked about licensing mental health professionals. I understand a bill is in progress that could change the state of Wisconsin's past posture in this area. We here at LCFS encourage you to vote on our behalf for passage of any such legislation that would enable the licensure of a variety of mental health professionals. The past licensure of only MSW's in this state has extremely hampered our work as a statewide community-type counseling agency.

We encourage the licensing futuristically of Professional Counselor, Marriage & Family Therapist, Social Workers, and psychologists. We believe that any of the professional categories, once past the 3000 hour post-masters supervision requirement, should be licensable as providers or supervisors. As the executive director of a mental health agency as well as a graduate level professor I believe that the above stated diversity in licensure will allow Wisconsin citizens better care as we look towards the future.

If I can be of any help during the process, certainly feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chuck Meseck, Psy.D.

**Executive Director** 

CM/lms

November 6, 1997

Hon. Rep. Cliff Otte, Chair, Consumer Affairs State of Wisconsin Assembly Madison, Wisconsin 53707

RE: Assembly Bill 517

Representative Otte and Committee Members:

I urge you to reject Assembly Bill 517. I am asking you to reject this bill because it will undermine the volunteer efforts which keep our communities alive. It will increase the cost of community's doing the business of caring for people by forcing non profit and state agencies to hire from a limited pool of workers licensed as Social Workers. There is no justification for this act whatsoever.

Passage of this bill will generate unending requests for licensing: we will need to have Licensed Disaster Counselors, Licensed Battery Counselors, Licensed Financial Counselors, Licensed Group Home Counselors, Licensed Wisconsin Legislators and so on. It will increase the cost of communities doing business by eliminating the competition; it will leave agencies without volunteer staff; it will leave agencies without choices in whom they can hire and dramatically increase their costs. All without justification whatsoever.

This bill should be rejected out of hand without further deliberation.

Sincerely.

Karen E. Muench, Ph.D., MSSW

Associate Professor

Department of Human Sevices and Professional Leadership

Laren E. Muench

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



#### **Department of Human Services**

501 Park Avenue Oconto, WI 54153-1612

920-834-7000 920-834-7045 (no voice response) (TDD) 920-834-6889 FAX

November 17, 1997

Representative Clifford Otte, Chairperson Committee on Consumer Affairs State Capitol Madison, WI 53708

Re: 1997 Assembly Bill 517

Dear Representative Otte:

I am writing to you on the behalf of the Oconto County Health & Human Services Board.

The Board wishes to express their non-support of the above entitled bill, which relates to the reputation of social workers, therapists, and counselors.

We agree that the professionalization and regulation of social workers, therapists, and counselors is important as long as the process does indeed measure the abilities/skills needed for effective service

However, we are concerned that Bachelor Degreed persons in other fields, such as Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Human Development, do not have the opportunity to obtain a license without going back to school.

These Bachelor level persons should at least have an opportunity to take the same test that Social Work degreed persons take after graduating.

At the present time, non-Social Work degreed persons have to go back to school to take classes, which may add another two years of college.

We believe that there are a number of non-Social Work degreed persons who have what it takes to do a great job as a County Social Worker.

Please take this concern into consideration when your committee meets to decide the fate of this bill. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Greg Benesh, Manager Clinical & Family Division

GB/pr

Tommy G. Thompson Governor

Michael J. Sullivan Secretary



Mailing Address 149 East Wilson Street Post Office Box 7925 Madison, WI 53707-7925 Telephone (608) 266-2471

#### State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

November 6, 1997

Representative Clifford Otte Room 109 West State Capitol Madison, WI

Dear Representative Otte:

I am writing to express my concern regarding AB 517, which relates to the regulation of social workers. This legislation could have a significant impact on many employees of the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Current law does not pose a problem for us since it basically regulates the use of titles. However, AB 517 establishes licensing requirements for persons who may actually practice "social work," regardless of their title. This includes counseling, which is an integral part of two major classes of DOC employees. Probation /parole agents and youth counselors in our juvenile institutions perform functions that appear to fall under the definition of social work. We have over 1,100 probation/parole agents and over 500 youth counselors employed by DOC. It is estimated that a majority of these persons would not be able to be licensed under AB 517. This would present operational concerns for us, particularly as it relates to public safety, if we did not have adequate staff to supervise offenders in the community or the juvenile correctional institutions.

Even if our existing employees were grandfathered into the law, this proposal would have a negative impact on DOC's ability to attract and hire qualified persons to work in these very responsible positions. There are many experienced people who could be a valuable asset to our organization and I do not wish to preclude hiring these individuals merely because they don't have a social worker license.

Thank you for considering my comments. If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sullivan

Secretary

cc: Secretary Cummings



Office of the President

**December 5, 1997** 

Representative Clifford Otte State Capitol - 109 W P.O. Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Representative Otte:

I am writing on behalf of the Medical College of Wisconsin to express our support of Assembly Bill 517. Assembly Bill 517 would transform the certification requirements under current law into licensing requirements and restricts the use of titles related to social work, marriage and family therapy or professional counseling to persons who are licensed. This step will protect the citizens of the state from unethical or substandard important protections.

I hope that you will support Assembly Bill 517 as it will assist the public through identification of standards for the safe professional practice of the various counselor categories. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at (414) 456-8225.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

T. Michael Bolger, JD

President and CEO

Medical College of Wisconsin